

**To:** Harrison, Melissa[Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov]  
**From:** Davis, Tim  
**Sent:** Sun 8/16/2015 2:25:21 AM  
**Subject:** RE: Fact sheet - historical background - looks like another thing to post. I'll get it ready--but just a quick question first:

I think so! Maybe? ☺ I'll double-check right now. I'm having double and triple vision with some of these emails. They all appeared at once when my email client was restored.

Back in a flash!!

**From:** Harrison, Melissa  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 15, 2015 8:24 PM  
**To:** Davis, Tim  
**Subject:** Re: Fact sheet - historical background - looks like another thing to post. I'll get it ready--but just a quick question first:

Did you get this from the EOC? I'm a bit behind in approvals.

Melissa Harrison

Press Secretary

EPA

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[Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov](mailto:Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov)

On Aug 15, 2015, at 8:16 PM, Davis, Tim <[Davis.Tim@epa.gov](mailto:Davis.Tim@epa.gov)> wrote:

Thanks for your awesome response just now, Melissa!! ☺

And I have a question: in scrolling through crazy amounts of email after my reboot somehow fixed my email issue for now (yay!), I see this awesome "historical background" fact sheet.

Is it OK to post? And would I link to it from the home page under "Fact Sheets?" **And, if so, what should I TITLE that link?**

Thanks!!

--Tim

Here's how the fact sheet starts:

#### **HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:**

The Gold King Mine (GKM) was discovered by Olaf Nelson in 1887, with operations continuing until 1907 when a fire destroyed the surface buildings of the mine. The mine was reopened in 1910 but closed shortly thereafter because of litigation and labor problems. In 1918 a new company bought the mine and operated it until the fall of 1922. The GKM shipped 711,144 tons of gold and silver ore while in operation. The mine has been inactive since then. It is currently owned by San Juan Corporation.

The GKM is located in the Upper Animas Watershed in southwestern Colorado. These watersheds within the volcanic terrain of the San Juan Mountains contain some 400 abandoned and inactive mine sites, which have been the focus of both large- and small-scale mining operations between 1871 and 1991. The watershed consists of three main streams, the Animas, Cement Creek and Mineral Creek all of which drain the Silverton Caldera. The Animas River and many of its tributaries are historically impacted by high concentrations of heavy metals from both acid rock/mine drainage at mine sites and from naturally occurring metal loading sources not impacted by mining.

Mining operations contributed to metals loading to alpine streams and creeks adding to the natural metal loading already occurring in the mineralized area. As a common practice, mine tailings were directly deposited into the creeks and rivers until the 1930's. Water draining from the mines occurs when mining operations in the mountainsides alter the hydrology of the area and combine with natural springs, pulling water into mine tunnels. The water reacts with iron disulfide (pyrite) and oxygen to form sulfuric acid (acid rock/mine drainage). The resulting acidic water dissolves naturally occurring heavy metals such as zinc, lead, cadmium, copper and aluminum and results in water containing these metals flowing out of the mine adits (a horizontal shaft into a mine, which is used for access or drainage).

**From:** Harrison, Melissa  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 15, 2015 8:13 PM  
**To:** Davis, Tim  
**Cc:** Hull, George; Purchia, Liz; Gray, David; EOC Environmental Unit; EOC Public Information  
**Subject:** Re: WEB UPDATE to review: the Aug. 15 DATA page regarding water quality data from Aug. 7 to Aug. 11 on the San Juan River between Farmington and Shiprock

Really great work Tim!

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On Aug 15, 2015, at 8:10 PM, Davis, Tim <[Davis.Tim@epa.gov](mailto:Davis.Tim@epa.gov)> wrote:

Hi everyone!

Please let me know right away if there's anything to change. Here's what I did:

1. On this page:

<http://www2.epa.gov/goldkingmine/epa-statement-water-quality-data-collected-san-juan-river-between-farmington-and>

I updated the wording, which ONLY consisted of changing "Aug. 9" to "Aug. 11" at the bottom of the page. The page, in turn, links to THIS page:

2. <http://www2.epa.gov/goldkingmine/gold-king-mine-data-august-15-2015>

It has the EXACT same (and now updated to "Aug. 11") wording; it's basically **the exact same page**. However:

3. It also contains a link to an Excel data file that is now UPDATED (and let me know if you'd like me to change the title of the Excel file; I made it far more descriptive)

I'll attach the OLD data file, just to be safe.

Thanks!

--Tim

<OLDVERSION\_gkm\_r09\_20150806\_gfsh\_wo\_cls.xlsx>